

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please reconsider claims 21 through 24 that are being re-presented with clarified status. Note that claims 21 through 24 are the same as claims 28 through 31 that were submitted on 1999 May 17 with application 09/312,922 which was incorporated by reference in this application (i.e. 09/470,566).

*illumination intensity matching*

21. (re-presented—formerly claim 28 of application 09/312,922, previously amended) A method of compressing a stream of data representing a stream of pixels, each pixel having a corresponding illumination intensity value, the method comprising the steps of:
- a. matching the illumination intensity value representing a pixel with a current line number;
  - b. determining if the current line number matches a previous line number of an immediately prior pixel;
  - c. incrementing a repeat counter if the current line number matches the previous line number;
  - d. encoding a repeat data structure with the repeat counter, if the current line number does not match the previous line number and the repeat counter has a value greater than zero; and
  - e. encoding a line number data structure with the current line number if the current line number does not match the previous line number;
- wherein a compressed stream of data is formed from combinations of the line number data structure and the repeat data structure.
22. (re-presented—formerly claim 29 of application 09/312,922) The method according to claim 21 further comprising the step of resetting the repeat counter to zero after the repeat data structure is encoded.

23. (re-presented—formerly claim 30 of application 09/312,922) The method according to claim 21 wherein the repeat data structure and the line number data structure include an identification bit,  
wherein when the identification bit is in a first state, a repeat data structure is encoded and when the identification bit is in a second state, a line number data structure is encoded.
24. (re-presented—formerly claim 31 of application 09/312,922) The method according to claim 23 further comprising the steps of:
- a. receiving the compressed stream of data, one data structure at a time;
  - b. reading the identification bit within the data structure to determine if the data structure is a line number data structure or a repeat data structure;
  - c. generating a representative average illumination intensity value corresponding to the line number if the data structure is a line number data structure; and
  - d. generating a number of representative average illumination intensity values corresponding to the line number of a last received line number data structure if the data structure is a repeat data structure, wherein the number is equal to the repeat counter within the repeat data structure.